

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. As far as I know, we do not have state or government-run media yet, but we are well on our way. Biased, sloppy, and unquestioning reporting, especially of charges that have already been shown to be untrue, does not serve this country, nor our purported efforts at breing "freedom and democracy" to other countries of the world. A free press, one without a political or corporate agenda, is the bullwark of our system of government.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.